

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (original) A method of protecting a multimedia object having a first media component and a second media component, comprising the steps of:
  - providing a watermark;
  - splitting the watermark into a first part and a second part;
  - inserting the first part of the watermark into the first media component;
  - inserting the second part of the watermark into the second media component; and
  - outputting a watermarked multimedia object.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further steps of:
  - receiving the watermarked multimedia object;
  - extracting from the first media component of the watermarked multimedia object a first extracted watermark part;
  - extracting from the second media component of the watermarked multimedia object a second extracted watermark part;
  - combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part; and
  - comparing the combined first and second extracted watermark parts with the provided watermark to verify an ownership.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the watermark is a signature watermark and is provided by:

obtaining a signature of the multimedia object; and  
generating the signature watermark as a function of the signature.

4. (original) The method of claim 3, comprising the further steps of:
- receiving the watermarked multimedia object;
- extracting from the first media component of the watermarked multimedia object a first extracted watermark part;
- extracting from the second media component of the watermarked multimedia object a second extracted watermark part;
- generating a combination watermark by combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part;
- generating a signature watermark that is a function of a signature extracted from the watermarked multimedia object; and
- comparing the combination watermark with the signature watermark to authenticate the multimedia object.

5. (currently amended) A system/computer program product for protecting a multimedia object having a first media component and a second media component, said product including instructions, within a computer-readable medium, executable by a processor to carry out acts comprising:
- ~~a mechanism for splitting a watermark into a first and a second part; and~~
- ~~a mechanism for inserting the first part into the first media component; and~~
- ~~for inserting the second part into the second media component.~~

6. (currently amended) The ~~system~~product of claim 5, further comprising instructions executable by said processor to carry out acts comprising~~a mechanism for~~ outputting a watermarked multimedia object, wherein the watermarked multimedia object includes the first media component having the first part of the watermark, and the second media component having the second part of the watermark.

7. (currently amended) The ~~system~~product of claim 5, wherein the first media component is an audio component, and the second media component is a video component.

8. (currently amended) The ~~system~~product of claim 6, further comprising instructions executable by said processor to carry out acts comprising:  
~~a mechanism for~~ obtaining a signature from the multimedia object; and  
~~a mechanism for~~ generating the watermark as a function of the signature.

9. (currently amended) The ~~system~~product of claim 6, further comprising instructions executable by said processor to carry out acts comprising:  
~~a mechanism for~~ extracting a first extracted watermark part from the first media component in the watermarked multimedia object; ~~and~~  
~~for~~ extracting a second extracted watermark part from the second media component in the watermarked multimedia object;

~~a mechanism for combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part; and~~

~~a mechanism for comparing the combined first and second extracted watermark parts with the watermark.~~

10. (currently amended) The ~~system~~product of claim 8, further comprising instructions executable by said processor to carry out acts comprising:

~~a mechanism for extracting a first extracted watermark part from the first media component in the watermarked multimedia object; and~~

~~for extracting a second extracted watermark part from the second media component in the watermarked multimedia object;~~

~~a mechanism for generating an extracted watermark by combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part;~~

~~a mechanism for generating a signature watermark that is a function of a signature of the watermarked multimedia object; and~~

~~a mechanism for comparing the extracted watermark with the signature watermark.~~

11. (currently amended) A ~~system~~computer program product for authenticating a watermarked multimedia object having a first media component and a second media component, said product including instructions, within a computer-readable medium, executable by a processor to carry out acts comprising:

~~a mechanism for extracting a first watermark part from the first media~~  
component;  
~~and for extracting a second watermark part from the second media component;~~  
~~a mechanism for combining the first extracted watermark part with the second~~  
extracted watermark part; and  
~~a mechanism for comparing the combined first and second watermark parts with a~~  
provided watermark.

12. (currently amended) The ~~system~~product of claim 11, wherein the provided watermark is generated as a function of a signature of the watermarked multimedia object.

13. (currently amended) The ~~system~~product of claim 11, wherein the first media component is a video component and the second media component is an audio component.

14. (currently amended) The ~~system~~product of claim 13, wherein the watermarked multimedia object has a third media object, and wherein the third media object is a closed caption component.

15. (new) A computer system comprising the product of claim 11.

16. (new) A computer system comprising the product of claim 5.

17. (new) An apparatus for protecting a multimedia object having a first media component and a second media component, said apparatus comprising:

a device for receiving a signal embodying said multimedia object and for processing the received signal so as to split the received object into the first and second media components;

a device for receiving a signal embodying a watermark and for processing the watermark-embodying signal so as to split the watermark into a first and a second part;

a device for inserting the first part into the first media component; and

a device for inserting the second part into the second media component.

18. (new) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a device for receiving, from the devices for inserting, the first and second media components and for outputting the received components.

19. (new) An apparatus for authenticating a watermarked multimedia object having a first media component and a second media component, comprising:

a device for receiving a signal embodying said watermarked multimedia object, for extracting, from the received signal, a first watermark part from the first media component, and for extracting, from the received signal, a second watermark part from the second media component;

a device for combining the first extracted watermark part with the second extracted watermark part; and

a device for receiving a signal embodying a watermark, for deriving the watermark from the watermark-embodying signal, and for comparing the combined first and second watermark parts with the derived watermark to authenticate said watermarked multimedia object.